

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A projectile, comprising:
a substantially spherical core including a carrier and a colorant mixed together and formed into a substantially firm predetermined core shape that is retained by the projectile core prior to impact of the projectile core upon a target; and,
a generally uniform coating bonded to and enveloping the core, the coating conforming to the shape of the core and providing resistance against breakage of the projectile core prior to impact of the projectile core;
at least a portion of the coating and core adapted to disintegrate or disperse upon impact with a target.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The projectile core of claim 1, wherein the colorant is at least one of a pigment and a liquid dye.
4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The projectile core of claim 1, wherein the carrier comprises one of a fibrous, absorbent material and a powder.
6. (Original) The projectile core of claim 1, wherein the carrier comprises a plant fiber.
7. (Original) The projectile core of claim 1, wherein the carrier comprises a cellulosic material.
8. (Original) The projectile core of claim 7, wherein the cellulosic material comprises rice straw.
9. (Original) The projectile core of claim 1, wherein the carrier comprises a powder.
10. (Currently Amended) A projectile for marking a target, comprising:
a substantially spherical projectile core comprising a carrier and a colorant mixed together and formed into a substantially firm predetermined core shape that is retained by the projectile core prior to impact of the projectile core upon a target; and [[.] a generally uniform coating bonded to and enveloping the core, the coating conforming to the shape of the core and providing resistance against breakage of the projectile core prior to impact of the projectile core.
11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The projectile core of claim 10, wherein the colorant is one of a pigment and a liquid dye.
13. (Original) The projectile core of claim 10, wherein at least a portion of the projectile core is adapted to disintegrate or disperse upon impact with a target.
14. (Original) The projectile core of claim 10, wherein the carrier comprises at least one of a fibrous, absorbent material and a powder.
15. (Original) The projectile core of claim 10, wherein the carrier comprises a plant fiber.
16. (Original) The projectile core of claim 10, wherein the carrier comprises a cellulosic material.
17. (Original) The projectile core of claim 16, wherein the cellulosic material comprises rice straw.
18. (Original) The projectile core of claim 1, wherein the carrier comprises a powder.
19. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a projectile core, comprising:
 - (a) mixing a carrier and a colorant to form a core mixture;
 - (b) forming the core mixture into a predetermined core shape; and,
 - (c) curing the core mixture until a substantially firm projectile core is formed.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of forming a projectile core according to claim 19, wherein the projectile core is further heated until an outer layer is formed adjacent the projectile core's outer surface.

21. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a projectile, comprising:(a) mixing a carrier and a colorant to form a core mixture;(b) forming the core mixture into a predetermined core shape;(c) curing the core mixture until a substantially firm projectile core is formed; and,(d) coating the outer surface of the projectile with an outer coating.

22. (New) The projectile of claim 1, wherein the generally uniform coating comprises a wax coating.

23. (New) The projectile of claim 10, wherein the generally uniform coating comprises a wax coating.

24. (New) The projectile of claim 1, wherein the projectile is a paintball.

25. (New) The projectile of claim 10, wherein the projectile is a paintball.

26. (New) A paintball, comprising:

a substantially spherical core comprising a powder formed into a substantially firm predetermined core shape that is retained by the paintball core prior to impact of the core upon a target; and

a wax coating enveloping the core, the wax coating conforming to the shape of the paintball core and providing resistance against breakage of the paintball core prior to impact;

at least a portion of the wax coating and paintball core adapted to disintegrate or disperse upon impact with the target.

27. (New) The paintball of claim 26, wherein the paintball is approximately 0.4 – 0.75 caliber in size.